

HOUSE No. 677

By Ms. Polito of Shrewsbury, petition of Karyn E. Polito relative to petitions for changes of names of minors. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

AN ACT PROTECTING A MINOR'S IDENTITY.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 12 of Chapter 210 of the General Laws,
2 as appearing in the 1998 Official Edition, is hereby amended by
3 inserting after the word "person" in line 1, the following:— "eigh-
4 teen years of age or older,".

1 SECTION 2. Said chapter is further amended by inserting after
2 section 12 the following section:—

3 Section 12A. Petitions for change of name of a minor.

4 The change of name of a minor shall be legally binding in all
5 circumstances, including, but not limited to, student registration
6 and school record keeping, only if said change of name is
7 approved by a justice of the Probate and Family Court in the
8 county where the minor resides. A petition for the change of name
9 of a minor shall be heard by the probate court in the county where
10 the minor resides, provided the petitioner gives proper notice to a
11 non-petitioning parent except in cases when visitation and or cus-
12 tody have been denied under section 31A of chapter 208. Such
13 petition shall not be allowed unless the petitioner establishes that
14 such name change is in the best interest of the minor.